Topped with chimichurri

Ditch the BBQ sauce and top your sizzling sirloin with Argentine chimichurri instead PAGE 9

BETTER TOGETHER?

- Meaghan Benfeito of Montreal and Roseline Filion of Laval, Que., won a synchronized diving bronze medal in London. Now they'll go at it alone as the 10-metre platform competition gets underway at 12 p.m. on OLN
- All-American girls: No matter what, the women's beach volleyball gold medal will go to the U.S. Find out what else you can't miss today PAGE 12

REGINA metro®

Wednesday, August 8, 2012

News worth sharing.

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MIGHT AS WELL JUMP

Canada's Derek Drouin, from Corunna, Ont., clears 2.26 metres in the men's high jump at the 2012 Summer Olympics in London on Sunday. Drouin would go on to win a bronze medal, Canada's 11th piece of hardware at the ongoing Games. Story, page 12. RYAN REMIORZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Thomaidis, Phillips wrap up Olympic run

Missing the podium. Saskatchewan-based assistant coach, player part of Canadian women's basketball team that lost to dominant U.S. squad in Monday's quarter-finals

DORIAN GEIGER
Metro in Saskatoon

Assistant coach Lisa Thomaidis and centre Krista Phillips — the pair representing Saskatchewan aboard the Canadian Olympic women's national basketball team — fell 91-48 to a powerhouse United States team Monday, ending Canada's Olympic run at the London Games.

The quarter-final contest saw the four-time defending gold medallists nearly double Canada on the scoreboard, forcing 26 turnovers from the Canucks.

Phillips collected two points and saw 22:37 of court time.

Despite missing the podium, Canada hit many milestones and exceeded expectations in their Olympic journey.

It began with an Olympic berth on Canada Day, their first in more than a decade. It continued with upsetting Great Britain and Brazil en route to a 2-3 record, as well as their first-ever Olympic quarter-final appearance.

With their Olympic run now over, Thomaidis, head coach for the University of Saskatchewan Huskies women's basketball team, will take a one-year leave from Canadian interuniversity athletics, while Phillips will return to her professional team, the Dandenong Rangers of the Australian Women's National Basketball League.

Follow Dorian Geiger on Twitter @dgiegs

With glowing words

Jill Humbert, recently appointed interim head coach of the U of S Huskies women's basketball team, is a former protégé of Thomaidis and teammate of Phillips.

- **On Thomaidis:** "It was fantastic to see someone you're so inspired by sitting on the bench and actually coaching at that level. It was very neat to watch Lisa coach."
- **On Phillips:** "She was my teammate in high school and I've known her since Grade 3. The Olympics have been a dream of Krista's since she was in high school so to see her reach them is fantastic. Seeing her play against U.S.A. and all these WNBA players whose careers I've followed and to see her compete on that exact same stage — she deserves to be on the court with them."

Murder in Mexico

Horrific details are emerging surrounding the murder of a Regina businessman last month during a vacation in Puerto Vallarta PAGE 2

All eyes on paragliders

Questions arise about new methods of launching terror attacks and the intention of two Russian men arrested in Spain PAGE 3

A franchise re-Bourne

Jeremy Renner takes over the lead from Matt Damon in The Bourne Legacy, but it's not the character's first big change PAGE 6

Regina man stabbed 23 times, police in Puerto Vallarta say

Latest Canadian death. Investigators discover evidence of a struggle in victim's apartment

Authorities are releasing more details about the horrific death of yet another Canadian while on vacation in Mexico.

The latest victim — identified as Duane Joseph Lang, 46, of Regina — was stabbed 23 times in an apartment in Puerto Vallarta, local authorities said Tuesday.

Puerto Vallarta police spokesman Adan Leyva says friends and neighbours couldn't get a hold of Lang for several days and asked his landlord to check up on him on July 30.

"(Lang) hadn't answered the phone for days," Leyva told The Canadian Press in a phone interview in Spanish.

The landlord then let himself into the apartment and came across Lang lying face-up in a pool of blood in the bedroom, Leyva said.

"He found blood spattered everywhere, things all over the place, a knife, and immediately called the police," said Leyva.

It was evident the body had been there for a few days because of a strong odour, Leyva said. The investigation is being handled by the state public prosecutor.

An autopsy completed on July 30 determined that Lang had been dead for 48-72 hours, said Andres Zuniga, a spokesman at the Jalisco Forensic Science Institute.

"He had 23 wounds from a sharp object and died as a result of those injuries," said Zuniga.

He said the warm weather made the forensic investigation difficult, as some samples had decomposed by the time the team arrived on the scene.

Lang's body is still being held in Mexico, said Zuniga.

There was evidence of a struggle and the lights were on, said Zuniga, which suggests that the attack happened during the night or early morning.

Leyva noted that this wasn't the first time a foreign national was found dead in that very apartment.

"A few years ago the landlord went through a similar experience with another tenant," said Leyva. He said although the neighbourhood isn't considered dangerous, it does have an active night life.

A number of Canadians have been involved in violent attacks in Mexico over the years.

Previous incident

- Puerto Vallarta police spokesman Adan Leyva noted that this wasn't the first time a foreign national was found dead in that very apartment. "A few years ago the landlord went through a similar experience with another tenant," said Leyva.

Mexican police have confirmed Duane Joseph Lang, 46, of Regina was stabbed 23 times in an apartment in Puerto Vallarta. GETTY IMAGES FILE

Quoted

"(The landlord) found blood spattered everywhere, things all over the place, a knife, and immediately called the police."

Puerto Vallarta police spokesman Adan Leyva

Earlier this year, Sheila Nabb, of Calgary, had to have extensive facial reconstruction after she was severely beaten while vacationing at a five-star hotel in Mazatlan.

In 2010, a 62-year-old man from B.C. living in Mexico was stabbed to death in Puerto Vallarta in a presumed robbery. That same year businessman Daniel Dion's body was found in the trunk of his burned-out rental car in the state of Guerrero.

In 2007, Mexican police said 19-year-old Adam DePrisco was killed after stumbling in front of a car while drunk, although his family and friends claimed he was beaten to death.

Domenic and Nancy Ianiero, of Woodbridge, Ont., were found with their throats slit in February 2006 at a resort near Playa del Carmen, where they had gone to celebrate their daughter's marriage.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Domestic dispute

Saskatoon police officer charged with assault

A Saskatoon Police Service officer has been charged with assault after the force responded to a domestic dispute in the 2200 block of Ewart Avenue on Aug. 5.

Const. Mark Franklin, 39, has been charged with one count of common assault. He appeared in provincial court on Tuesday.

Franklin, who did not have a lawyer present with him, requested the opportunity to seek legal counsel before entering a plea. He was granted a week to do so by Justice Marty Irwin and will appear in court next on Aug. 14. Franklin declined to comment on the matter.

The victim, 39-year-old Alison Bell, suffered minor injuries but did not require hospitalization in the incident.

Franklin, an SPS member for 18 months, has been reassigned to administrative duty while the case is before the courts.

JANE CAULFIELD AND DORIAN GEIGER/METRO IN SASKATOON

Rosthern, Sask.

Mountie charged for allegedly using RCMP fuel card

A Saskatchewan Mountie and his wife face charges over allegations they used an RCMP fuel card to buy gasoline for their personal vehicles. Const. Harley Gillman and Marie Gillman are charged with fraud over $5,000 and theft over $5,000.

The constable is also charged with breach of trust by a public officer. Gillman and his wife were arrested and are to appear in Rosthern provincial court on Sept. 12.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Mobile news

More than a thousand volunteers turned themselves into human dominoes and toppled into the record books. Scan the code to watch the bizarre event.

Codette

Man killed in crash with semi

On Tuesday, a semi and a car collided 10 miles south of Codette, killing one driver. The semi, carrying an empty tandem grain trailer, was heading southbound on Highway 35 when a northbound car struck it on the driver's side, igniting a fuel tank and setting the semi on fire.

The man driving the car was pronounced dead at the scene. The male driver of the semi was unhurt, but badly shaken up from the incident, according to the Saskatchewan RCMP.

METRO

Federal commission

New electoral map for province is proposed

The Federal Electoral Boundaries Commission for Saskatchewan has proposed a new electoral map for the province. It will be considered at public hearings this fall.

The commission is proposing to create two urban electoral districts in Regina and three in Saskatoon. The suggested map will also include two mixed districts and seven rural. Currently, all fourteen districts except for two are mixed rural and urban. METRO

New crop of apps for farmers is being grown in Saskatchewan

Thanks to two new farming-specific apps being developed in Saskatchewan, it seems that one more tool can be added to the farmer's arsenal — the smartphone.

A Saskatoon development firm, Quintapps, recently launched Farm at Hand, an app that enables farmers to manage things like commodity storage or commodity contracts.

Two University of Saskatchewan engineering students, Lindsay Sweet and Bradley Weiers, are fine-tuning their app Crop Scouter, which will be released before next spring.

University of Saskatchewan students Bradley Weiers and Lindsay Sweet display the Crop Scouter app on an iPhone. MORGAN MODJESKI/METRO IN SASKATOON

The app will help farmers identify and manage unwanted weeds in their crops.

JANE CAULFIELD/METRO IN SASKATOON

West Africa

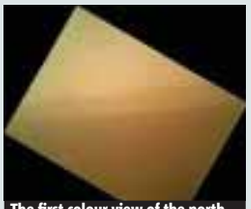
Ottawa pledging millions in relief

The federal government says it will match Canadians' donations to a fund for humanitarian aid in West Africa's Sahel region, which has been rocked by famine and political unrest.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Mars

Rover transmits first colour images

NASA's Curiosity rover has transmitted its first colour photo and a video showing 2 1/2 minutes of its dive through the Martian atmosphere, giving a sneak peek of a spacecraft landing on another world.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



The first colour view of the north wall and rim of Gale Crater where NASA's rover Curiosity landed Sunday. NASA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Germany

Civilian accused of stealing data

A 60-year-old civilian who worked at NATO's air command headquarters in Germany has been charged with stealing secret data. The employee is alleged to have obtained the data and transferred it to his computer. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Arizona

Shooting suspect pleads guilty

The suspect in a mass shooting that left a U.S. congresswoman wounded has pleaded guilty to going on the rampage that killed six other people.

Jared Lee Loughner's plea Tuesday allows him to avoid the death penalty in a shooting that gained worldwide attention in January 2011 because his intended target was Rep. Gabrielle Giffords.

A judge ruled on Tuesday that months of forcibly medicating Loughner to treat his schizophrenia made him competent to understand the gravity of the charges. He is expected to be sentenced to life in prison.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Arrests put paragliding in spotlight

Terror from the sky?
Suspects allegedly took lessons, planned to launch aerial attacks

The history of terror plots is filled with unusual schemes, from an underwear bomber to model planes filled with explosives — showing how would-be attackers are constantly hatching ideas to catch authorities by surprise. Now questions are being raised about whether two Russians held on terror charges in Spain were planning to launch airborne attacks on paragliders.

The two Russians took paragliding lessons this year in a southern Spanish region renowned for the sport, authorities said over the weekend. A Turkish engineer also under arrest paid for the lessons.

Spain's Interior Ministry declined comment on whether investigators believe Eldar Magomedov and Mohamed Ankari Adamov were using the paragliding lessons to train for an attack. But analysts said the allegation in court paperwork that they took the lessons is almost certainly a key line of investigation.

No attacks have been carried out using paragliders, experts said.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"Terrorism is a full-time occupation, you don't pursue hobbies on the side."

Magnus Ranstorp, a terror expert at the Swedish National Defence College

Paragliding in Europe

There are no criminal background checks for would-be paragliders.

- Students only have to be physically fit and able to speak the language of the country where the courses are taught.
- Europe has at least 100,000 licensed paragliders.

South Africa wakes up to a winter wonderland

People react as a rare snowfall hits Johannesburg on Tuesday. Temperatures dropped to below freezing Tuesday morning as snow flurries blew through South Africa's commercial hub, dusting the city in white as residents poured into the streets to watch the snowflakes fall. The South African Weather Service has warned that extreme cold will blanket much of the nation over the next few days, which remains in winter.
JON GAMBRELL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Congo. Oxfam says hundreds killed, raped

With Congo's army diverted to fighting a new rebel group, new militia groups have arisen and older ones are reasserting themselves, killing hundreds of civilians, the British charity Oxfam said Tuesday.

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton called the violence "a serious threat to regional security and stability."
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Israel. Blurry glasses keep women out of sight

It's the latest prescription for extreme ultra-Orthodox Jewish men who shun contact with the opposite sex: Glasses that blur their vision, so they don't have to see women they consider to be immodestly dressed.

Their interpretation of Jewish law forbids contact between men and women who are not married.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Broadcasting. Companies rally against BCE-Astral deal

Three major Canadian media companies have launched a campaign to oppose BCE Inc.'s planned purchase of Astral Media Inc., saying the deal would give Bell too much control over the country's broadcasting landscape.

The heads of Cogeco Cable Inc., Eastlink and Quebecor Inc. unveiled Tuesday a new online petition against the proposed deal. They raised the spectre of Bell forcing consumers to pay more money for popular television channels, or packaging those channels with less-popular ones, or other services, if the Astral deal goes ahead.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Threat

The deal still needs approval by the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission and the Competition Bureau.

- "Ottawa must absolutely stop this deal," said Louis Audet of Cogeco Cable. "If this transaction is approved, Bell Canada will pose a very serious threat to the Canadian broadcasting industry."

Military export. U.S. senators accuse Canadian company of law violation

Two high-profile American senators are demanding tougher action against a Canadian aerospace company that has admitted to exporting military software to China in violation of U.S. law.

Pratt and Whitney Canada, owned by U.S. defence giant United Technologies Corporation, has acknowledged selling the computer programs that could allow China to complete the development of its first modern attack helicopter.

U.S. senators John McCain and Carl Levin, who sit on the Senate Armed Services Committee, want the Obama administration to go beyond the $75 million US fine imposed on Pratt and Whitney and another subsidiary, Hamilton Sundstrand. Both senators are also calling for company officials to be held personally accountable for what they describe as "criminal misconduct."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"(The violations) may have caused significant harm to our national security."

U.S. senators John McCain and Carl Levin wrote in a letter to both Defence Secretary Leon Panetta and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton

Market Minute

DOLLAR 100.25¢ US (+0.44¢)

TSX 11,863.50 (+200.91)

OIL $93.67 US (+$1.47)

GOLD $1,612.80 US (-$3.40)

Natural gas: $2.964 US (+5.6¢)
Dow Jones: 13,168.60 (+51.09)

Apple

iPhones, iPads to ditch YouTube app

Apple says the next version of its software for the iPhone and iPad won't come with a pre-installed YouTube application.

Users will be able to play YouTube videos in the Web browser, says Apple spokeswoman Trudy Muller. YouTube-owner Google is also working on a downloadable app, she says.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Air Canada workers talk at Pearson International Airport in Toronto on Thursday. NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Fewer fly Air Canada in July, WestJet on top

Air traffic. Losses expected to continue for Air Canada when it reports third-quarter results on Wednesday

Report

"Record July operating statistics support our positive view of end market conditions for WestJet."

Gregg Saretsky, WestJet president and CEO

Air Canada saw a greater percentage of empty seats on its flights last month compared with a year ago as traffic on Canada's largest airline slipped more than it cut capacity.

The Montreal-based company reported Tuesday that its system load factor for July was 85.9 per cent, down from 86.4 per cent a year ago.

In contrast, Calgary-based rival WestJet Airlines posted a record load factor in July, with improvements in all key performance measures compared with July 2011.

Air Canada's lower load factor came as traffic fell 1.1 per cent and capacity was cut 0.5 per cent compared with a year ago.

Still, the result was "close to last year's record load factor for the same month and underscores our continued disciplined approach to managing capacity," Air Canada president and chief executive Calin Rovinescu said.

Air Canada said the load factor on its U.S. and transatlantic flights dropped to 80.1 per cent and 87.5 per cent respectively, down from 81.2 per cent and 89.5 per cent.

Domestic flights improved their load factor to 84 per cent, up from 83.1 per cent a year ago, while flights across the Pacific improved to 91.5 per cent from 91.2 per cent.

Air Canada will report its third-quarter results Wednesday. The airline is expected to lose one cent per share on $3 billion of revenues, compared with a loss of 20 cents per share on $2.9 billion of revenue a year ago, according to analysts polled by Thomson Reuters.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Pfizer pays $60M in bribery settlement

Pfizer has agreed to pay the federal government $60 million US to settle allegations that its employees bribed doctors and other foreign officials in Europe and Asia to win business and boost sales.

The Securities and Exchange Commission said Tuesday that Pfizer's overseas subsidiaries made illegal payments to health care workers in China, Italy, Russia, Croatia and other Eastern European countries.

As early as 2001, Pfizer sales representatives tried to conceal the bribes by recording them as legitimate business expenses for travel, entertainment and marketing purposes, the agency said.

"Pfizer subsidiaries in several countries had bribery so entwined in their sales culture that they offered points and bonus programs to improperly reward foreign officials who proved to be their best customers," said Kara Brockmeyer, chief of SEC's foreign enforcement division.

New York-based Pfizer first disclosed the misconduct to SEC and Justice Department officials in October 2004, and co-operated with the government's investigation. Pfizer, the largest pharmaceutical company by sales, neither admitted nor denied the allegations.

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OPPRESSION IN BELARUS MAKES FOR A GOOD CHILD'S FABLE

JUST SAYIN'
Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca/voices/just-saying

I had this great idea for a children's book:

The Dark Lord rules over a country far away. He is very powerful and prevents anyone from speaking out against his government, even though the economy is a mess and the living standard is low. A group called Reporters Without Borders ranks this sad country 154th out of 178 countries in its Press Freedom Index.

After I penned a story

Imagine my distress when I find out that my story, which is going to allow me to replace J.K. Rowling at the top of the list of Fabulously Wealthy Children's Authors, really happened!

One day, good blond people from a magic land hear about the human rights abuses of the Dark Lord, including the death of a human rights activist, and decide to take action. They fly a small plane into the Dark Lord's domain and parachute 1,000 teddy bears calling for free speech, and then escape untouched.

When the Dark Lord finds out, he gets very angry and fires his generals who did nothing, despite boasting of a sophisticated defence system fuelled by treasure that should go to hungry children. But the damage is done. Everyone is laughing at the Dark Lord, who can't even stop an invasion of teddy bears. His mojo is toast.

Imagine my distress when I find out that my story, which is going to allow me to replace J.K. Rowling at the top of the list of Fabulously Wealthy Children's Authors, really happened! And it's still happening.

The Dark Lord, also known as Alexander Lukashenko, the President of Belarus, has expelled the ambassador of the good people, who are in reality employees of a Swedish ad agency who thought the Teddy Bear Invasion would be a good way to get Belarusian oppression of human rights on the news agenda.

It worked. It doesn't hurt that Teddy Bear Terrorists Tomas Mazetti and Hannah Frey look like Swedish movie stars and the teddies are pretty darn cute too, with their little parachutes and placards.

Of course, because this is real life and not a child's fable, everyone is definitely not living happily ever after. Lukashenko is arresting anyone who dares to smile, and, meanwhile, the jails are full of human rights activists and former presidential candidates.

Still, you have to admire the Swedish protest and its simple, child-like charm. In a country where protesters have been arrested just for clapping or ringing their cellphones in unison, you need to be creative to tell a modern story of brutal, systematic oppression.

I know I'm inspired — I'm just about finished the New Adventures of Delta Force Teddy — in which the bears fly to North Korea to infiltrate Kim Jong-un's bedroom to discover the identity of the mystery lady who suddenly turned up at his side.

Stay tuned.

Tomas Mazetti and Hannah Frey show a teddy bear on a parachute as they pose for a photo in Berlin recently. The slogan on the paper fixed to the bear reads: "We support the Belarusian struggle for free speech."
GERO BRELOER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A turtle is born ... from plastic

ACT4.CO/SOLENT

Up-cycled art

Brilliant sculpture made from trash

This enchanting turtle floating in deep azure blue sea is truly unreal — in fact the creature is made entirely from discarded and reclaimed household objects.

Artist Sayaka Ganz's stunning sculptures — which also include a whale, fish, dog and an albatross — measure from half a metre to two and a half metres.

METRO

A knack for recycling

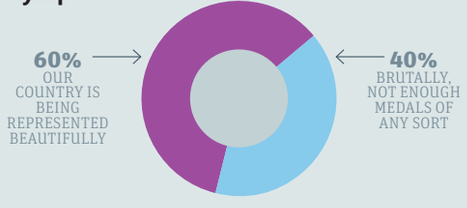
- **Plastic passion.** Ganz sorts everything plastic — from sunglasses and cutlery to baskets and cooking utensils — into 20 colour groups in her basement. "I have been collecting plastic objects for four years now, and I have about 20 bins of colour-sorted plastics," she said. Some of her items are found in garbage cans, some in charity shops and the rest are donated by friends and relatives.
- **Japanese philosophy at heart.** Despite now working in Fort Wayne, Ind., Ganz keeps the traditions from her childhood homeland close to her art: "Japanese Shinto beliefs are such that all objects and organisms have spirits, and I was taught in kindergarten that objects that are discarded before their time weep at night inside the trash bin." She added: "My goal is for each object to transcend its origin by being integrated into an animal/organic forms that are alive and in motion."

Artist Sayaka Ganz, 35, hails from Yokohama, Japan.
CONTRIBUTED

Metropolitan Panel

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

How do you feel Canada is faring in the Olympics?



Twitter

@H_Kopz:
I really need to enjoy these last couple weeks of freedom before school #UofR #getatme

@JustinRedfern:
Really startin to get pumped for college. #collegeball #partylife #gettinbig #UofR

@ActivistKent:
The Governments of NF (Cons) and PEI (Libs) have both eliminated interest on student loans. Will @PremierBradWall follow? #skpoli #uofr

@gordiechan:
What the heck is going on? Last week it was cars hitting horses on the highway. This weekend it's cars hitting cows?? #sask

@Hckygrlz:
My week is gonna fly by and then bring on the #football! #Esks vs #Sask!!!

metro

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SCENE 2

Jeremy Renner takes over leading man role in the latest Bourne flick. HANDOUT

The Jason Bourne facsimile

Damon relinquishes role. Renner picks up the lead in secret-agent thriller but it's not the first time Bourne has seen changes

IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse
scene@metronews.ca

Writer Robert Ludlum died a year before Jason Bourne, his most famous character, was brought to life on the big screen by Matt Damon.

He didn't get to enjoy Damon's take on the action hero, but he did see another version of The Bourne Identity and the famous superspy.

The writer reportedly enjoyed the 1988 300-minute, two-part made-for-television movie of The Bourne Identity starring mini-series king Richard Chamberlain in the role Damon later made famous.

Despite a cheeseball love scene between Chamberlain and co-star Jaclyn Smith the TV special (now available on DVD) was a faithful adaptation of the first Bourne novel and even earned its lead actor a Golden Globe nomination.

These days Ludlum would be hard pressed to recognize his character, however.

He wrote the first three Bourne books but after his death the series was kept alive by writer Eric Van Lustbader, who has made slight, but noticeable changes to the character over the course of seven subsequent novels.

Quote

"Damon didn't want to return to the franchise but the studio still wanted another Bourne movie."

Moviegoers may also find themselves a tad confused this weekend when Jeremy Renner takes over the lead from Damon in The Bourne Legacy. Renner, who beat out Jake Gyllenhaal, Michael Fassbender, Taylor Kitsch and Josh Hartnett for the gig, isn't playing Jason Bourne, but a reasonable facsimile — a trained assassin brainwashed into taking part in covert government activities.

In Hollywood they call that expanding "the franchise mythology."

In other words, Damon didn't want to return to the franchise but the studio still wanted another Bourne movie.

Ludlum's books — he wrote 23 thrillers with sales estimated between 290 to 500 million — have also provided the basis for several movies without the name Bourne in the title.

The Osterman Weekend is a confusing movie about a television journalist who becomes convinced his friends are a threat to national security. Ludlum apparently offered to rewrite the perplexing script at no charge, but was rejected by the movie's producers.

The result is an entertaining mess the New York Times said, "has a kind of hallucinatory craziness to it."

More troubles

The Holcroft Covenant was another troubled production.

- **Unhappy.** Star James Caan walked out the day before filming was to begin, unhappy with the script. His replacement, Michael Caine, carries the espionage story, but the action scenes are more entertaining than the spy story.
- **Another movie.** In development is the Chancellor Manuscript, Ludlum's story about J. Edgar Hoover's alleged "secret files." Leonardo DiCaprio is rumored to be in talks to star.

Celebrating the unconventional

ParaNorman. Off the wall children's film embracing some unorthodox approaches to making animated movies

CAROLYN MORRIS
scene@metronews.ca

Computer wizardry takes a back seat in the upcoming children's flick, ParaNorman.

Instead of dazzling computer-generated images, if you look really closely, you might notice that the globules of spit flying from one of the movie's many zombies are actually little balls of dried glue mounted on a wire.

ParaNorman opens in theatres Aug. 17. HANDOUT

And you surely won't be able to detect that Norman's chubby friend's belly is lifted up and down with an Allen key to make it appear to jiggle as he runs, through stop-motion technology.

Yes, the makers of this high-budget film are making use of the same tool as Ikea shoppers worldwide.

"We work in unorthodox ways," says producer Arianne Sutner.

The Portland-based Laika studio also made the 2009 children's film Coraline, which was nominated for an Academy Award in the animated feature category.

"We're working very hands-on, with over 300 artists working with very traditional tools — paint, and glue and hammers," she explains.

It's not that computers are absent. But they are used in service of the more tactile side of the production. The thousands of facial expressions that Norman and his fellow characters display are designed digitally. Instead of being rendered out for the film, though, they're printed using 3-D printers and attached to the puppets with magnets.

"The process of printing has an imperfection to it. And once real light hits that, it becomes something else entirely," says writer and co-director Chris Butler.

"You still can't beat just natural photography," Sam Fell, the movie's other co-director, agrees.

Norman has approximately 32,000 faces that fit onto his 28 bodies. Animators then meticulously position the puppets on sets to take a picture of every single frame in the movie — 24 for every second of film. It's not unusual for them to spend an entire day shooting less than a second's worth of footage.

The movie's about a boy who's different. He sees zombies and ghosts, and he's the target of schoolyard bullies as a result. It's a comedy and a horror-film satire, and celebrates the unconventional.

It opens Aug. 17.

On the web

Madonna hopes for release of Russian rockers facing trial over punk prayer against Putin

Russell Brand

Brand still fighting the addiction disease

Despite 10 years of being clean and sober, Russell Brand still knows the pull of addiction.

In a scene from his upcoming BBC documentary on the subject, Brand watches footage of his younger self doing drugs and is surprised by his reaction.

"This is when you know it's a disease. It doesn't matter that I was in that flat in Hackney and now I'm in the Savoy. I'm jealous of me then," he says, according to the Daily Mail. "It doesn't make a difference to me. The money, the fame, the power, the sex, the women — none of it. I'd rather be a drug addict."

Ryan Lochte

Olympic swimmer crushing on Lively

New U.S. Olympic swimming star Ryan Lochte knows what he likes when it comes to famous women.

When asked by CNN's Piers Morgan what famous woman he would choose to spend the rest of his life with, Lochte responded, "Uh, right now, Blake Lively. She is gorgeous."

And Lochte says he wouldn't let Lively's boyfriend, Ryan Reynolds, stand in his way if he were to meet her.

"I would be like, 'Hi.' I'd be like, 'You want to go to an island with me?'" he said.

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Posh Spice doesn't come cheap

THE WORD
Monica Weymouth
scene@metronews.ca

Forget the opening ceremony — the Spice Girls are reuniting for a performance at the Olympics' closing ceremony.

Unfortunately though, things don't always go smoothly when five washed-up pop stars try to squeeze back into their platform sneakers.

It seems Victoria Beckham — or, as we never stopped calling her, Posh Spice — has some wardrobe requirements.

"They are paying at least $15,000 for Victoria Beckham's hair, makeup and stylist. In comparison, the other Spice Girls cost one-fourth of what Victoria is costing," a source tells Hollyscoop of the Olympic preparations.

"All of the diva stories about Victoria are true. This is p—ing off the other Spice Girls. They don't understand why she is getting special treatment."

Allow us to explain, ladies: It's because her name is Victoria Beckham, and she could purchase half the participating countries.

NBC responds to the Osbournes

Sharon Osbourne quit her gig as a judge on America's Got Talent, claiming that NBC unfairly axed her son Jack from a new reality show, Stars Earn Stripes, after his MS diagnosis.

NBC is delicately saying that this isn't quite true — it's more that he's just plain out of shape compared to the professional athletes, trainers and former boy band members (looking good, Nick Lachey!) who made the final cut.

"As a company that cares deeply about the health and safety of everyone on our shows — especially one like Stars Earn Stripes that requires dangerous water stunts, strenuous physical activity and uses live ammunition — we required all potential participants to undergo medical vetting," NBC Chairman Bob Greenblatt explained in a statement.

Twitter

@NathanFillion
How's your handshake? You sure? Is it too hard? Do you pinch? People think they have it right, but don't. Seriously- check.

@Joan_Rivers
Ryan Lochte admits that he urinated in the water at the Olympics. Apparently he saw a sign that said "warm-up pool", so he did.

@kirstiealley
Ya just gotta love love..let's all OD on it... night y'all .. Love, from paradise

@SteveMartinToGo
Using tiny but powerful hotel hair dryer to jet me around room in St. Paul. Fun.

LIFE 3

On the Web

Eight[illegible] travel writer Andrew McCarthy says Toronto is no longer dull

Top 5 universities you can crash at -- for less -- this summer

BY MAE GIFFORD
life@metronews.ca

5 universities to stay in

1 Ryerson University

Staying at Ryerson is cheap compared to downtown Toronto hotels. PROVIDED BY RYERSON UNIVERSITY

Price: $54 for a single bed with shared bathroom
Average price for hotel: $159
The reason to stay here is location, location, location. Situated around the corner from Yonge-Dundas Square in downtown Toronto, you're mere steps from theatres, the Eaton Centre and transit that can take you to the CN Tower. Each floor of the residence has a common lounge, kitchen and shared laundry facilities.

2 Dalhousie University

Guests at Dalhousie also get access to Dalplex, the university's athletic facility. FLICKR: BRENT EADES

Price: $31 for students, $47 for adults
Average price for hotel: $179
Located in the centre of activity in downtown Halifax, guests are close to many attractions including museums, restaurants and shopping. You'll also get free Wi-Fi and access to Dalplex, the school's athletic facility.

3 University of Prince Edward Island

Price: $53 for a single room, $69 for a double
Average price for hotel: $179
Minutes from downtown Charlottetown, guests who stay in the residence are treated to free parking as well as bed linen and towel exchange. Want to take a dip in the ocean? The beach is a 20-minute drive away.

Just 20 minutes from the beach, the University of Prince Edward Island also has free parking. HANDOUT

4 Carleton University

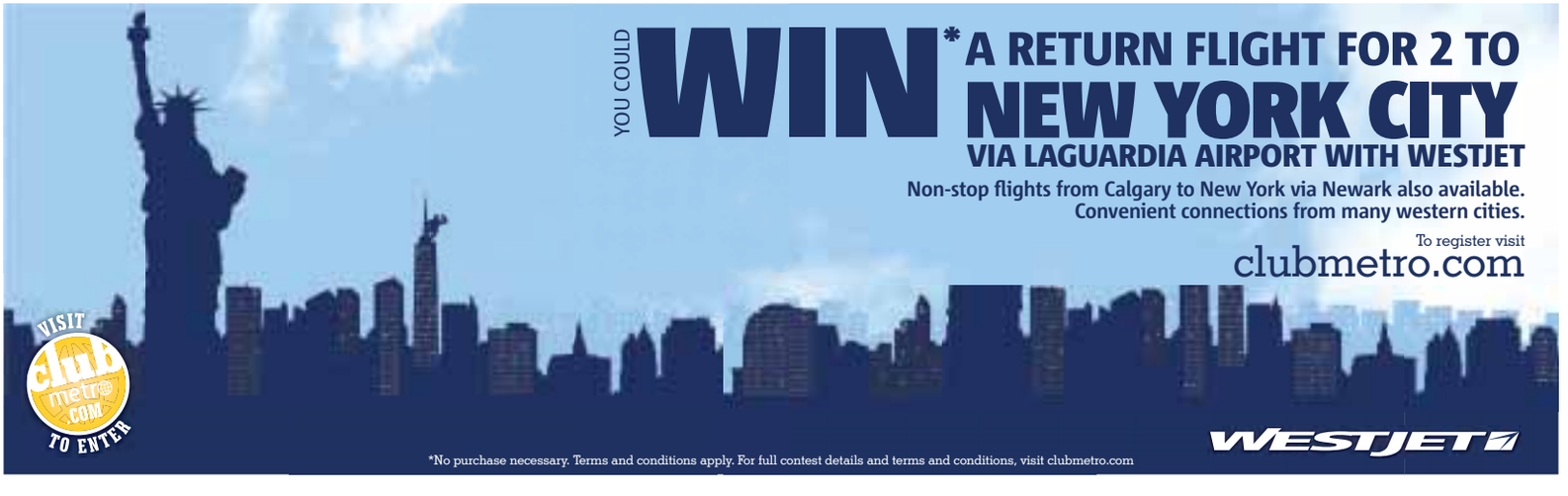
Price: $72.32 per person, includes taxes and all-you-can-eat buffet breakfast
Average price for hotel: $118
The nation's capital is popular during the summer and staying at Carleton is a great option for the budget-wise. Halfway between the airport and downtown, the school is close to shopping, galleries and museums. Guests who stay here also have access to the school's athletic facilities (including an Olympic-sized pool) for a small fee.

Carleton University can be a low-cost option for travellers visiting Ottawa. FLICKR: ERFANO

5 University of Victoria

Price: $47.20 for a single bed
Average price for hotel: $199
This picturesque city is a must-see for all Canadians, but staying near the inner harbour is pricey. The school is located about 20 minutes from downtown, and the price is right. The best part about staying here? They also throw in breakfast. Apartment-style units with four bedrooms and two bathrooms are also available for $160 per night.

The University of Victoria offers a variety of options, and includes breakfast. FLICKR: ALEJANDRO ERICKSON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Skip tired barbecue toppings and finish steak with chimichurri sauce

Steak with Chimichurri Sauce

This recipe serves four. THE CANADIAN PRESS H/O

Excellent cuts of barbecued beef suit Canadians' summer lifestyle to a T — simple, great-tasting food grilled to perfection. In this rendition, chimichurri sauce is used.

1. In a food processor, combine parsley, coriander, mint, garlic, cumin, salt and cayenne; pulse until garlic is minced. Add vinegar and mix. Gradually add oil, mixing until thoroughly combined. (Chimichurri can be made up to 1 day in advance. Cover and refrigerate until ready to use or freeze for up to 1 month.)

2. Generously season beef with salt and pepper. Place on greased grill over medium-high heat; close cover and grill for 4 to 6 minutes per side for medium-rare.

3. Meanwhile, if not using vine tomatoes, thread cherry tomatoes on small skewers (if using wooden skewers, soak for about 20 minutes first). Place tomatoes on grill and cook for last few minutes of grilling, just until warmed through. Serve with steak.

Ingredients

Grilled Steak
- 4 beef tenderloin grilling steaks (each 180 g/6 oz) or your favourite cut of grilling beef
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- 1 pkg (200 g) on-the-vine cherry tomatoes or 375 ml (1 1/2 cups) cherry tomatoes

Chimichurri Sauce
- 250 ml (1 cup) chopped fresh parsley
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) each chopped fresh coriander and mint
- 2 cloves garlic, chopped
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) ground cumin
- 1 ml (1/4 tsp) salt
- Generous pinch cayenne pepper
- 45 ml (3 tbsp) red wine vinegar
- 150 ml (2/3 cup) olive oil

4. Drizzle each steak with 30 ml (2 tbsp) chimichurri. Serve remaining chimichurri sauce on the side. FOODLAND ONTARIO/ THE CANADIAN PRESS

Drink of the Week

Sip Brazil's sweet Caipirinha cocktail

Caipirinha, considered Brazil's national cocktail, is a celebrated beverage. Make a variation with watermelon for the perfect party sip.

- 1 lime
- 5 quarter-sized slices ginger
- 10 ml (2 tsp) sugar
- 6 chopped mint leaves
- 60 ml (2 oz) watermelon puree
- 60 ml (2 oz) cachaca
- 30 ml (1 oz) grenadine
- Ice

Muddle lime, ginger, sugar and mint and transfer to a cocktail shaker. Add watermelon puree, grenadine, cachaca and ice. Shake. Pour into a glass and serve. THE CANADIAN PRESS/ WATERMELON.ORG

Tweeting tragedy turns into lesson

Dreams dashed. Olympian's story of social slip-up important for all hires to hear

ISHANI NATH
TalentEgg.ca

After years of training and preparation, it took less than 140 characters to dash Greek track athlete Voula Papachristou's Olympic dreams.

The young triple-jump champion was booted from the London 2012 Summer Olympic Games roster after she posted a tasteless tweet about Africans and the West Nile virus, sparking an uproar on social media.

While only a select few get to be professional athletes and partake in the Olympics, this situation speaks to an issue that is common among all of us: social media can have serious repercussions for your career — a lesson that Papachristou is now learning the hard way.

To be sure that you don't have to endure the same lesson, Robert Half Division Director Chris Brady has some tips and advice for job seekers and young professionals using social media.

Don't forget that the words you type are connected to your mouth. ISTOCK

Keep yourself in check

"Check your spelling, check your grammar and, above all, check your content."
Ishani Nath

Remember your audience

"Your social profile when you're in college or university can be very different than what it should be when you're out in the workforce," says Brady. When you're posting on social media, it's important to remember that you're not on campus anymore. What you post, tweet and upload is available to a much wider network of people than just your immediate network of friends. The web is much larger than that. Current and prospective employers are in that mix.

Be aware of the impression that you make online, he says. Even though LinkedIn is the 'Facebook of business,' companies can still lurk around your other social networks to get a sense of who you are.

Amp up your security

If you've racked up years of unflattering party photos or awkward high school banter that you'd rather your current or future boss not see, the easiest solution is to adjust your privacy settings.

Each social media site has help features to explain how to share without sharing with the wrong people. Keeping your social networks private is a quick way to manage your online brand if you don't have time to professionalize your accounts.

Pause before you post

When you have a great tweet or status update, it can be tempting to get it out to the cyber sphere as quickly as possible. But stop a moment and think. This message is potentially going out to more than just your network of friends so you better make sure that it is what you want to say. Check your spelling, check your grammar and, above all, check your content.

Brady says, if you're posting something that employers could find, ask yourself: "Would I stand up in a conference room and make that comment?" If the answer is no, such as in the case of Papachristou's tweet, then don't hit send.

Though you can delete posts off your feed or account, you can never fully erase them. "The information that you put out there once you hit that button is out there for good," says Brady.

ISHANI NATH IS AN ASPIRING WRITER WHO IS LEARNING THE COMPLEXITIES OF THE CRAFT IN RYERSON UNIVERSITY'S MASTER OF JOURNALISM PROGRAM.

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NFL

Ryan lays down law at Jets practice

Rex Ryan ordered his players to cut out all the nonsense.

When the New York Jets ignored their coach, it was time to run. And run some more.

A day after a 20-player throwdown highlighted a chippy practice, Ryan made his players run a series of sprints Tuesday as punishment for a few minor scuffles on the field. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rex Ryan GETTY IMAGES FILE

NFL

First female official 'a little nervous' and plenty excited

The NFL's first female official is welcoming her role as a sports pioneer.

Shannon Eastin says she's excited and a bit nervous but not at all intimidated by the challenge of working a pro game. Eastin makes her debut Thursday as the line judge when the Green Bay Packers play San Diego in the pre-season opener.

"I want to encourage women: Don't be afraid," Eastin said on a conference call Tuesday. "Pursue and have dreams. This is my dream. With very step I hope to show it really doesn't matter if you are male or female." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Golf

"Things have progressed, but still, not winning a major championship doesn't feel very good."

Tiger Woods, who will get his last chance to win a major in 2012 at this week's PGA championship.

Dancevic's renaissance won't begin in Toronto

Tennis. Former No. 65-seed Canadian falls in first-round at Rogers Cup

Frank Dancevic has had better days at the Rogers Cup.

Only five years ago, he reached the quarter-finals.

But Mikhail Kukushkin of Kazakhstan defeated Dancevic 6-3, 7-5 in a first-round Rogers Cup match on Tuesday.

Kukushkin, 24, ranked 69th in the world, will play Richard Gasquet of France in Round 2.

Dancevic, 27, a native of Niagara Falls, Ont., is trying to resurrect a career that had him ranked 65th in the world at one stage. He entered the Rogers Cup as a wild card, ranked 123.

"I've had a pretty rough year this year battling injuries and stuff," he said after Tuesday's match. "My confidence this year started getting better last week. I started playing really well and I made the semifinals in Vancouver."

But as well as he played last week, it was a different story on Tuesday.

"Arriving here late and adjusting, I found it a little difficult and I felt like I was struggling out there today finding my timing," he said.

After dropping the first set, he was competitive in the second until Kukushkin broke his service to go ahead 6-5.

"Physically I feel good," Dancevic said. "My back is good, knock on wood. The last three tournaments I've played I haven't felt any pain or anything serious."

Things weren't so good this year before that.

"When I was playing well ... I felt like my confidence just skyrocketed," he said. "Then, bam, I was out three months, it happened so suddenly. I just like popped ligaments and I was out. It kind of scared me.

"Coming back and starting to train again was really difficult.... I was very tentative, very afraid of what was going to happen if I would get hurt again and be out again." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Pospisil finished

On Tuesday afternoon, Juan Monaco of Argentina defeated Vasek Pospisil of Vancouver 7-5, 6-4.

- It was a quick turnaround for the 22-year-old Pospisil, who beat Italy's Andreas Seppi on Monday night in a third-set tiebreaker.

Frank Dancevic leaves the court after his loss in Toronto on Tuesday. AARON VINCENT ELKAIM/THE CANADIAN PRESS

In Montreal

Rest not an option for Azarenka

It's been a hectic time for Victoria Azarenka, but it has not kept the world's top-ranked women's tennis player away from the women's Rogers Cup.

Azarenka arrived in Montreal on Tuesday from the London Olympics, where she won bronze in singles and then gold in mixed doubles with Belarus compatriot Max Mirnyi.

"It's not easy to regroup mentally because you want to celebrate a bit, but you have no time," Azarenka said Tuesday. "But I'm happy to be here." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Victoria Azarenka in Montreal on Tuesday. GETTY IMAGES

Mobile sports

Punctures. Broken saddles. Shoe issues. The Olympics is not the place for a cyclist to have a mechanical malfunction. Some problems can't be anticipated. But for the rest, the Canadian track cycling team has veteran mechanic Sandy MacDonald. Scan the code for the story.

Pitching prognosis gets worse for Jays

Drew Hutchison pitches in Toronto in June. CARLOS OSORIO/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

The Blue Jays will have to do without rookie right-hander Drew Hutchison a lot longer than expected, with word coming down Tuesday that the 21-year-old will undergo season-ending Tommy John surgery.

Typical recovery time for the reconstructive elbow operation is at least a year, meaning he will miss most — if not all — of the 2013 season.

When Hutchison left his start on June 15 with pain in his right elbow — becoming the third Jays' starter to suffer a serious injury in just four games — his ailment was originally classified as a "sprained," rather than torn, elbow ligament. The Jays believed he would escape surgery.

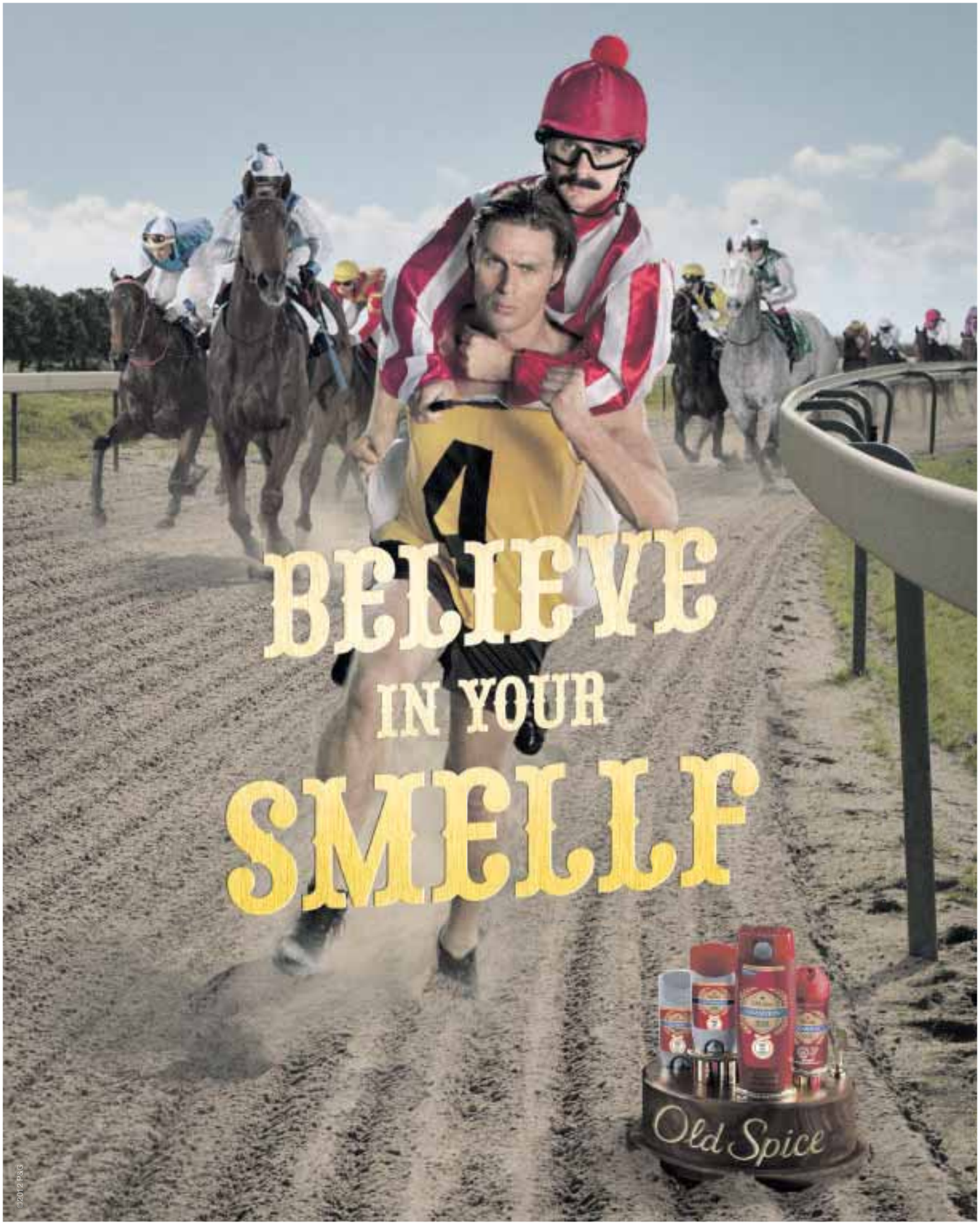
Manager John Farrell said then that Hutchison's injury was "clearly" less severe than Kyle Drabek's — suffered a day earlier — for which there was consensus on the need for surgery. There was talk of Hutchison rejoining the starting rotation before the end of the season.

But after nearly two months of rest, rehab and deliberation with his family, Hutchison will join Drabek on the long road to recovery — except now he's two months behind. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Surgery schedule

The Jays say Hutchison, 21, will have his surgery performed by Dr. James Andrews in Pensacola, Fla.

- Toronto right-hander Dustin McGowan, 30, will also visit Andrews on Wednesday and is scheduled for arthroscopic surgery to evaluate his right shoulder joint on Thursday.
- McGowan has had shoulder surgeries in 2008 and 2010. THE CANADIAN PRESS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Finishing on a high note: Drouin overcame injury to win bronze

High jump. Three-time NCAA champion wins Canada's first medal in high jump since 1976

A year ago at this time, Derek Drouin was barely walking, let alone leaping.

The 22-year-old from Corunna, Ont., had suffered a lisfranc fracture, a gruesome foot injury that has ended the careers of countless athletes, and one that his doctor warned may keep him off Canada's Olympic team.

Certainly no one watching Tuesday night would have guessed that as he captured bronze in the men's high jump, Canada's first track and field medal at the London Olympics and its first in the event since Greg Joy's silver at the 1976 Montreal Games.

"That was the amazing thing," said his coach Joel Skinner, a high school teacher in Sarnia. "He struggled with it, got over it, was determined, came back from it. He has come back from this lisfranc fracture to win an Olympic medal and a lot of people need to know about that because it's just an amazing feat."

Drouin finished in a three-way tie with Britain's Robert Grabarz and Qatar's Mutaz Essa Barshim. All three cleared 2.29 metres without any misses then missed three attempts at 2.33 metres.

Ivan Ukhov of Russia won the gold with a jump of 2.38 metres while American Erik Kynard took silver with 2.33.

Mike Mason of Nanoose Bay, B.C., was eighth with 2.29, narrowly missing on one of his attempts at 2.33 metres that would have put him in the medals.

Drouin suffered the injury in March 2011 when he planted his right takeoff foot an odd way. The mid-foot injury results when the metatarsal bones are displaced.

"My doctor made it very clear that if I was going to qualify (for London) it was going to be very, very tight. The rehab was extensive, it was very long," Drouin said.

It was a remarkable turn of events for an athlete so young competing on sport's biggest stage. The London Olympics represented Drouin's first national senior team appearance. The largest crowd he'd ever jumped in front of before the Olympics was at Penn Relays one year when Jamaican superstar Usain Bolt was racing.

But the young jumper wasn't overwhelmed competing before some 80,000 people Tuesday night.

Derek Drouin wraps himself in the Canada flag as he celebrates his bronze in the men's high jump finals Tuesday at Olympic Stadium in London, England. SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

"He's a rare one, he doesn't get rattled by too much, he has great focus, and thinks of everything as just another track meet," said Skinner.

For the better part of two hours, he made sure his eyes didn't stray up beyond the first couple of rows at Olympic stadium. Drouin looked at the high jump pit, and he looked up at his coach sitting a couple of rows up from track level, and not much else.

"I do a good job of getting out there and not noticing everything," he said. "I did not notice how big this stadium actually was until I was doing my victory lap." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"Basically my goal was just to get through the season and get to the Olympics."

Derek Drouin, bronze-medal winner in the men's high jump, who had surgery to secure his foot with screws and then was sidelined for eight months.

On the track

- Drouin's success at the Olympic Stadium could not be matched by Phylicia George of Markham, Ont., and Calgary's Jessica Zelinka on the track.
- Both qualified for the final of the women's 100-metre hurdles, but George wound up sixth in 12.65 seconds, while Zelinka was seventh in 12.69 seconds.

Diving. Despatie 11th in fourth and final Olympics

Ilya Zakharov of Russia scored 104.50 points on his last dive to win the three-metre springboard at the London Olympics, spoiling China's bid to sweep all eight diving events.

Zakharov totalled 555.90 points in the six-round final Tuesday night. Qin Kai of China took the lead into the last round, but he settled for silver at 541.75.

He Chong, the defending champion and Qin's teammate, earned the bronze at 524.15.

Alexandre Despatie of Laval, Que., finished 11th in his final Olympics.

"My objective this year was to compete at my fourth Olympics," said the 27-year-old, who suffered a serious injury in training in June. "I had a lot of roadblocks on the way and I pushed myself to the limit to get there.

Alexandre Despatie performs in the men's three-metre diving final in London, England. THE CANADIAN PRESS

"It was the most taxing year of my life and just to be here was something special to me. I was lucky to be here in the first place." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Synchronized swimming

Russians reprove dominance in duet

Natalia Ishchenko and Svetlana Romashina extended Russia's domination of synchronized swimming with an Olympic gold medal in duet on Tuesday.

The Russians improved on their free score from the prelims, finishing with a total of 197.100 points. They haven't lost an Olympic synchro event since the 1996 Atlanta Games.

The only real drama was for silver, which went to Spain's Ona Carbonell and Andrea Fuentes with 192.900 after a lively, Tango-themed routine that had the crowd at the Aquatics Centre clapping along nearly the whole way.

China's Huang Xuechen and Liu Ou finished third with 192.870. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Wednesday's 3 to watch

1 Equestrian

Defending champion Eric Lamaze, of Schomberg, Ont., pictured, and 10-time Olympian Ian Millar, of Perth, Ont., will represent Canada in the individual jumping event.
Time: 7:55 a.m.
Channel: TSN

2 Women's beach volleyball

It's an all-American final.

Kerri Walsh Jennings and Misty May-Treanor will face April Ross and Jennifer Kessy, pictured, for the gold medal.
Time: 2 p.m.
Channel: TSN

3 Women's wrestling

Hazelton, B.C.'s Carol Huynh returns to the Olympic mat to try to defend her gold medal from the 2008 Beijing Games in the 48-kg weight class. Huynh is one of Canada's best chances for a medal on Wednesday.
Time: 6:20 a.m.
Channel: Sportsnet

Boxing

Clayton narrowly loses in quarters

Custio Clayton gave Canadian boxing a shot in the arm early in the Olympic men's welterweight tournament.

He came within a few punches of doing much more than that Tuesday night at ExCel South Arena 2.

With a semifinal appearance and a guaranteed medal on the line, Clayton fought European champion Freddie Evans to an even 14-14 score but the Brit won on a countback to advance.

The countback is used to break scoring ties. Officials count the number of punches thrown in the fight and the boxer with the higher total wins. The final punch statistics aren't normally released.

The Canadian team filed a protest later in the evening but it was rejected by the International Amateur Boxing Association, according to the team's media attache. The Canadian team said in the failed appeal that Evans should have been given a warning after receiving a third caution for the same foul.

A warning gives two additional points to the opponent. The venue's media manager said officials planned to review the video, but there was no immediate word on when a decision would be announced.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Whitfield bows out of race after crash on bike

Triathlon. Former gold medallist fails to finish competition in what could be his last Olympic appearance

Simon Whitfield intended to throw a final haymaker in his fourth Olympic triathlon. He didn't get beyond cocking his fist.

Within seconds of getting onto his bike, the 37-year-old crashed spectacularly in a freak accident Tuesday at the London Games and couldn't continue.

Whitfield watched Britain's Alistair Brownlee win gold from the medical tent while he received stitches in his toe and treatment for other assorted hurts.

The Olympic champion of 2000 and silver medallist of 2008 may have been a medal longshot in London, but he'd invested heavily in one last go at the podium.

Whitfield's chin dropped to his chest while speaking of the time away from wife Jennie and their two young daughters Pippa Katherine and Evelyn.

When he met with his family under the grandstand, he said five-year-old Pippa Katherine had a bouquet of maple leaves for him.

"My breakdown moment was seeing my wife because I know how much Jennie puts into this and we're a team and she's put in so much sacrifice being at home a lot alone," Whitfield said. "It was hard to see my daughter upset, my wife upset and I was pretty upset. That means it means something doesn't it?"

Spaniard Javier Gomez earned silver and Brownlee's younger brother Jonathan took bronze. It wasn't a banner day for the Canadian team. Kyle Jones of Oakville, Ont., was disappointed in his 25th-place finish. Victoria's Brent McMahon was 27th.

Whitfield came out of the 1.5-kilometre swim in the Serpentine in 15th. He hadn't even got his bare feet into his shoes when he lost control of his bike coming off a speed bump.

His bike wheels skidding sideways, the front wheel of competitor Leonardo Chacun made contact with the back of Whitfield's bike. The Costa Rican was dashed against the pavement while Whitfield careened towards the metal crowd barrier to his left, eventually falling as well with his bike cartwheeling in front of him.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada's Simon Whitfield talks to reporters after crashing in the men's triathlon on Tuesday.
SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Day 11 results

MEDAL STANDINGS

200 of 302 total medal events

Nation	G	S	B	Tot
China	34	21	18	73
United States	30	19	21	70
Britain	22	13	13	48
Russia	10	18	20	48
Japan	2	13	14	29
France	8	9	11	28
Germany	6	14	7	27
Australia	4	12	9	25
South Korea	12	5	6	23
Italy	7	6	4	17
Netherlands	5	3	6	14
Canada	**1**	**3**	**7**	**11**
Hungary	4	2	3	9
New Zealand	3	1	5	9
Ukraine	3	0	6	9
Romania	2	5	2	9
Iran	4	3	1	8
Belarus	3	2	3	8
Denmark	2	4	2	8
Brazil	2	1	5	8
Poland	2	1	5	8
Kazakhstan	6	0	1	7
Cuba	3	3	1	7
Sweden	1	3	3	7
Spain	1	4	1	6
North Korea	4	0	1	5
Czech Republic	1	3	1	5
Kenya	1	2	2	5
Mexico	0	3	2	5
South Africa	3	1	0	4
Jamaica	2	1	1	4
Ethiopia	2	0	2	4
Slovenia	1	1	2	4
Colombia	0	3	1	4
Slovakia	0	1	3	4
Croatia	2	1	0	3
Georgia	1	1	1	3
Armenia	0	1	2	3
Azerbaijan	0	1	2	3
Belgium	0	1	2	3
India	0	1	2	3
Dominican Republic	1	1	0	2
Switzerland	1	1	0	2
Lithuania	1	0	1	2
Egypt	0	2	0	2
Estonia	0	1	1	2
Indonesia	0	1	1	2
Mongolia	0	1	1	2
Norway	0	1	1	2
Serbia	0	1	1	2

WHAT CANADA DID

Tuesday at the 2012 London Olympics

ATHLETICS

Men's 200m — First Round Qualifying — Aaron Brown, Toronto, finished third in heat two qualified with a time of 20.55. Tremaine Harris, Markham, Ont., finished fifth in heat five and qualified with a time of 20.70. Jared Connaughton, New Haven, P.E.I., finished third in heat seven and qualified with a time of 20.72.

Men's 800m — Semifinals — Geoffrey Harris, Halifax, finished seventh in heat three and failed to qualify with a time of 1:46.14.

Men's High Jump — final — Derek Drouin, Corunna, Ont., won a bronze medal (2.29). Michael Mason, Nanoose Bay, B.C., finished eighth.

Women's 200m — Semifinals — Crystal Emmanuel, Toronto, finished seveth in heat three with a time of 23.28 and failed to qualify.

Women's 100 Hurdles — Semifinals — Nikkita Holder, Pickering, Ont.. finished sixth in heat one with a time of 12.93 and failed to qualify. Finals — Phylicia George, Markham, Ont., finished in sixth with a time of 12.65 and Jessica Zelinka, Calgary, finished in seventh with a time of 12.69.

Women's 5000m — First Round Qualifying — Sheila Reid, Canada, finished in 15th in heat two and failed to qualify with a time of 15:27.41.

Women's Javelin — Qualifying — Elizabeth Gleadle, Canada, (60.26), 197-8, finished sixth in group one and qualified.

BASKETBALL

Women's quarterfinal — Canada was defeated 91-48 in their quarterfinal game against the U.S. Kim Smith, Mission, B.C., scored 13 points, while Chelsea Aubry, Kitchener, Ont., added 10.

BOXING

Men's Welter (69kg) — Custio Clayton of Dartmouth, N.S., lost his quarter-final match to Freddie Evans of Great Britain. The result was 14-14, but Evans won on a countback.

CANOE/KAYAK

Women's Kayak Singles 500 — Semifinals — Emilie Fournel, Lachine, Que., finished sixth in heat one and failed to qualify with a time of 1:54.120.

CYCLING (TRACK)

Women's Omnium — Final Ranking — Tara Whitten, Edmonton, finished fourth with (7; 3; 8; 3; 6; 10) 37 points.

DIVING

Men's 3m Springboard — Alexandre Despatie, Laval, Que., finished in 11th with a combined score of 413.35. Francois Imbeau-Dulac, St-Lazare, Que., finished 13th in the semifinal with a combined score of 440.20 and failed to qualify for the final.

EQUESTRIAN

Individual Dressage — Ashley Holzer, Toronto, finished 24th place with a score of 71.

SAILING

Men's Windsurfer — Zac Plavsic, Vancouver, finished eighth (100).

Women's Windsurfer — Nikola Girke, West Vancouver, B.C., finished 10th (109).

Men's 470 — Mike Leigh, Vancouver, and Luke Ramsay, Vancouver, were 25th (179).

SYNCHRONIZED SWIMMING

Duet — Marie-Pier Boudreau Gagnon, Riviere-du-Loup, Que., and Elise Marcotte, Quebec City, finished in fourth with a two-day combined total of 189.20.

TRIATHLON

Men — Kyle Jones, Oakville, Ont., finished 25th with a time of 1:49:58. Brent McMahon, Victoria, finished in 27th with a time of 1:50:03 and Simon Whitfield, Victoria, did not finish the race.

SOCCER

MEN

SEMIFINALS
Tuesday, Aug. 7
At Wembley, England
Mexico 3, Japan 1
At Manchester, England
Brazil 3, South Korea 0
BRONZE MEDAL MATCH
Friday, Aug. 10
At Cardiff, Wales
Japan vs. South Korea, 2:45 p.m.
GOLD MEDAL MATCH
Saturday, Aug. 11
At Wembley, England
Mexico vs. Brazil, 10 a.m.

BASKETBALL

WOMEN

Tuesday, Aug. 7
Quarterfinals
Australia 75, China 60
United States 91, **Canada 48**
Russia 66, Turkey 63
France vs. Czech Republic
At North Greenwich Arena
Thursday, Aug. 9
Semifinals
Australia vs. United States, Noon
Russia vs. France-Czech Republic winner, 4 p.m.
Saturday, Aug. 11
Bronze medal, Noon
Gold medal, 4 p.m.

Twitter response

"Devastated for Simon. Witnessed first hand his incredible work ethic and commitment. He was so ready for this race. #hero"

Paula Findlay, the teammate Whitfield strongly defended on Twitter after her disappointing finish at the women's triathlon, was one of the first to react to Whitfield's own failure.

"When I was in middle school and ran cross country, I would always pretend I was @simonwhitfield at the end. He's a hero to so many"

Canadian Olympic swimmer Julia Wilkinson.

"When it was announced that @simonwhitfield had withdrawn the whole crowd sighed for him. He is so well respected"

Three-time Olympic champion rower Marnie McBean.

Herdman eager to turn team focus to match vs. France

Canada head coach John Herdman speaks during a news conference in London on Sunday. BEN CURTIS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Canadian women's soccer coach John Herdman says his players have to pick themselves up following their crushing Olympic semifinal loss to the United States.

"These next days are going to be crucial," Herdman said on a conference call Tuesday. "We can just minimize distractions and be ready to get absolutely clear about achieving the task and making the country proud by seeing that flag rise."

But the distractions continued ahead of Thursday's bronze-medal game with France as FIFA announced it is investigating comments made after Monday's dramatic 4-3 lost to the Americans.

Canadian players, including captain Christine Sinclair, were critical of Norwegian referee Christiana Pedersen's decisions.

Sinclair, who scored all three of Canada's goals, said moments after the final whistle that "the ref decided the result before the game started."

A spokesman for the Canadian Soccer Association said the team will not comment on the investigation until FIFA makes a decision.

Herdman, meanwhile, is focusing on getting the team ready for France.

"I'm trying not to give it any power or attention at this point until it becomes something that affects the team, as in selections and tactical planning," said Herdman.

The coach added he does not plan to talk to Sinclair about her comments.

With Canada up 3-2 against the favoured Americans, Pedersen awarded an indirect free kick to the U.S. inside the 18-yard box after Canadian goalkeeper Erin McLeod was penalized for holding on to the ball too long.

The indirect kick resulted in Canada being called for a hand-ball infraction in the box, and U.S. star Abby Wambach scored to tie the score 3-3 with 10 minutes to go in regulation time.

Alex Morgan then won the game for the U.S. on a header in the last minute of extra time. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Redemption?

France beat Canada at the 2011 World Cup, and Canada's 0-3 record at the tournament led to Herdman's appointment as coach in place of the departed Carolina Morace.

DRIVE 5

Skip the sliding doors on your used Sienna minivan

Second Gear. 2004 to 2010 Toyota Sienna

JUSTIN PRITCHARD
drive@metronews.ca

515/PHOTO CREDIT

Toyota's Sienna minivan competed with the Honda Odyssey and Dodge Grand Caravan for the dollars of Canadian families with an eye for reliability and high resale value.

The last full generation of this machine launched for the 2004 model year and carried on until 2010. Feature content included motorized sliding doors, heated leather seating, a sunroof, automatic climate control and plenty more. Basic Sienna models were called CE, while LE and Limited models filled the model range.

Common Issues

Numerous Sienna owners have reported problems with the power sliding doors, so avoid a model equipped with them if possible. These typically don't last the life of the vehicle and will be expensive to repair if or when they fail.

Check the paint for signs of chipping, scratching or rust. Some owners say they expected a tougher finish from their Sienna's paint job. Check the dashboard for signs of cracking as well.

On earlier models with the 3.3-litre engine, be sure to check for signs of oil smoke at startup or after a drive. Check the engine's oil, noting its condition and level. Though rare, some owners have reported oil sludge problems. A model that's had regular, high-quality oil changes is your best defense.

Engine

Look for a 3.3- or 3.5-litre V6 engine with output rated between 215 and 266 horsepower, depending on the year. All Wheel Drive (AWD) was available.

What Owners Like

Space, performance, power output, versatility and quality were typically rated highly by Sienna owners. Ride quality, cargo space and even fuel mileage were also commented upon positively.

What Owners Dislike

A "plasticky" interior, easily-scratched paint, loud engine and plain looks were among the most common complaints of last-generation Sienna owners.

Verdict

A newer, lower-mileage unit without power sliding doors, and with full service records and a clean bill of health from your Toyota mechanic, will be your most worry-free bet in a used Sienna.

Fraudsters another reason to keep eyes on road

Insurance fraudsters are watching for opportunities to convert driver distraction into cash. NEWS CANADA

If hefty fines, possible demerit points and the fact you are three times more likely to be involved in a collision if you are texting aren't enough to make you think twice about driving distracted, perhaps this will.

Apparently police are not the only ones watching for you to take your attention away from the road. Insurance fraudsters are known to pounce at the opportunity to convert your lack of attention into their windfall by purposely causing a collision at the exact moment you are distracted.

Here's one example of how this crime is orchestrated: A vehicle loaded with numerous occupants pulls in front of a target vehicle. A passenger in the front vehicle watches behind for the target driver to be distracted. A diversion like answering a phone, texting or reaching back to return a child's toy can provide the opportune moment for the fraudster to slam on the brakes.

In some cases, a second vehicle — part of the fraud — pulls alongside the target vehicle, boxing it in, so there's no room to swerve and avoid rear-ending the lead vehicle when it suddenly stops.

In either scenario, the innocent driver rear-ends the fraudster's vehicle and could end up being seriously hurt. At the very least, the innocent driver will be handed a traffic ticket and deemed at fault.

Depending on the person's previous driving record, this could mean higher insurance rates when the policy is renewed. Meanwhile, the fraudster and his or her passengers — and there's usually three or four in the vehicle — all claim for unnecessary and expensive health treatments.

Criminals can stage collisions in many different ways and a single event can result in tens and even hundreds of thousands of dollars in fraudulent claims. NEWS CANADA

On the Web

Kathy Ullyott has always loved cars. So when Bridgestone Americas invited her on a two-day learn-to-race course, she jumped on it. Scan this code or visit metronews.ca/drive

Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
You must put a fight behind you and join forces with someone whose help you are going to need in the weeks to come. If you have to meet certain challenges alone, you might not succeed.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
You may think you can get away with anything, but that is not an excuse to do as you please at other people's expense. Think ahead to how your actions might affect your long-term reputation.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
The more of an effort you make now, the more opportunities will come your way in the near future. With Mercury, your ruler, moving in your favour again, now is the time to make plans. The bigger the plans, the better.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
Today's cosmic picture makes it easy for you to make new alliances. You may think you don't need other people but you do, more than you realize. Besides, there is a joy to working with others that solitary effort can't match.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
You seem to have gotten your mind stuck in a groove and are finding it hard to move on. What you most need now is a change of attitude. Look at your life from a wider perspective.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Everyone is singing your praises at the moment but you don't seem to have much confidence in yourself. However, now that your ruling planet Mercury is moving direct again you will soon rediscover your self-belief.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You may not want to say what you have to say but you must say it anyway. Does that make sense? Okay, put it this way: if you don't speak truth to power you'll be the one who loses money. Got it?

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
An old idea will get you thinking along new and profitable lines over the next 24 hours. It may be an idea that has been used many times before but your twist on it could make you a million!

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Stop feeling sorry for yourself and start thinking about how you can make the best of the opportunities you've been given. They are all around you if you take the trouble to look. Life is full of possibilities.

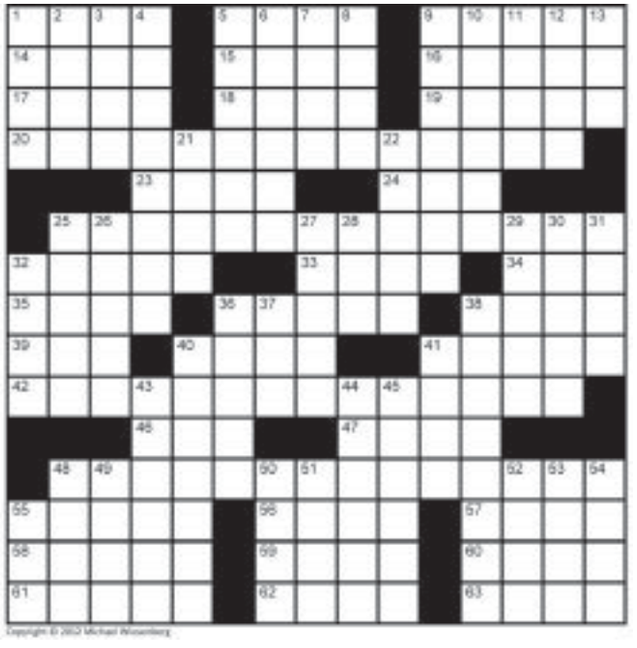
♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Make sure that you are the one who profits from your ideas. Mercury, planet of the mind, will give you plenty of insights but it is what you do with them that matters. Action is essential.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
If you are having second thoughts about an agreement of some kind, you can probably get out of it today. There will be a price to be paid, of course, but it will be worth it. Reclaim your freedom.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
The whole world seems to be singing your praises and it's quite right that you feel proud about what you have achieved. But don't lose sight of the fact that it's only a beginning. Everything is up for grabs. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Crossword: TV Star, Water, Royalty, and a PM

BY MICHAEL WIESENBERG



Across
1. ___ to riches
5. One of many on a computer desktop
9. Crop associated with Saskatchewan
14. "What are you, some kind of ___?" (2 wds)
15. Fashioned
16. Our world
17. Break suddenly
18. Great Lake
19. Actress Dickinson (*Police Woman, Rio Bravo, Ocean's 11, Dressed to Kill*)
20. BC-born *Baywatch* babe (2 wds)
23. Backpacker's shelter
24. Fib
25. Second-largest body of water in NT, and deepest in North America (3 wds)
32. Male swine
33. Wallet fillers
34. Confound
35. Murders
36. "___ all, folks!": cartoon signoff
38. ___ et Chandon champagne
39. Bumpkin
40. Born and ___
41. Grassy yards
42. Queen Victoria's fourth daughter, after whom three places were named, a lake, a village, and the province itself (2 wds)
46. Golfer Ernie called "The Big Easy"
47. Persia, now
48. 12th PM, 1948-1957 (3 wds)
55. 9:50, say (2 wds)
56. Cold-weather wear
57. Margarine
58. One ___ chance: odds are 9:1 against (2 wds)
59. Formerly
60. Got off
61. British Isles wastelands
62. ___ *of the D'Urbervilles*: 1891 Thomas Hardy novel upon which was based 1979 Roman Polanski film whose title was simply the girl's name
63. Broad lowland

Down
1. Frog-in-the-throat sound
2. Canadian-born actress Paquin
3. American territory in the Pacific
4. Vatican City basilica (2 wds)
5. "That's not what ___": "I may have misspoken" (2 wds)
6. Diamond weights
7. Thor's dad
8. Require
9. Becomes fatigued
10. —— and Gretel
11. Therefore
12. Has ___ ear: is tone-deaf (2 wds)
13. Kermit ___ Frog
21. Meadows
22. Santa's helpers
25. Really succeed (2 wds)
26. One-named Egyptian-born Canadian singer-songwriter of children's music
27. Cargo quantities
28. Picnic pest
29. Swears
30. Nancy Drew creator Carolyn
31. Many business phone nos.
32. Betty of old cartoons
36. Hair amount
37. "___ a real nowhere man": Beatles lyric (2 wds)
38. Much-traveled thoroughfare (2 wds)
40. Vancouver CFL team (2 wds)
41. Hawaiian feast
43. Grammar gender
44. Shrubs with lavender blooms
45. Speechifies
48. Late-night TV host Jay
49. "Hold ___ your hat!"
50. Stevenson or Burns
51. Vocal sound
52. Jazz singer Fitzgerald
53. Winnipeg-born Young called "Godfather of Grunge"
54. Lug
55. ___ Horton's

Yesterday's crossword

What's online

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

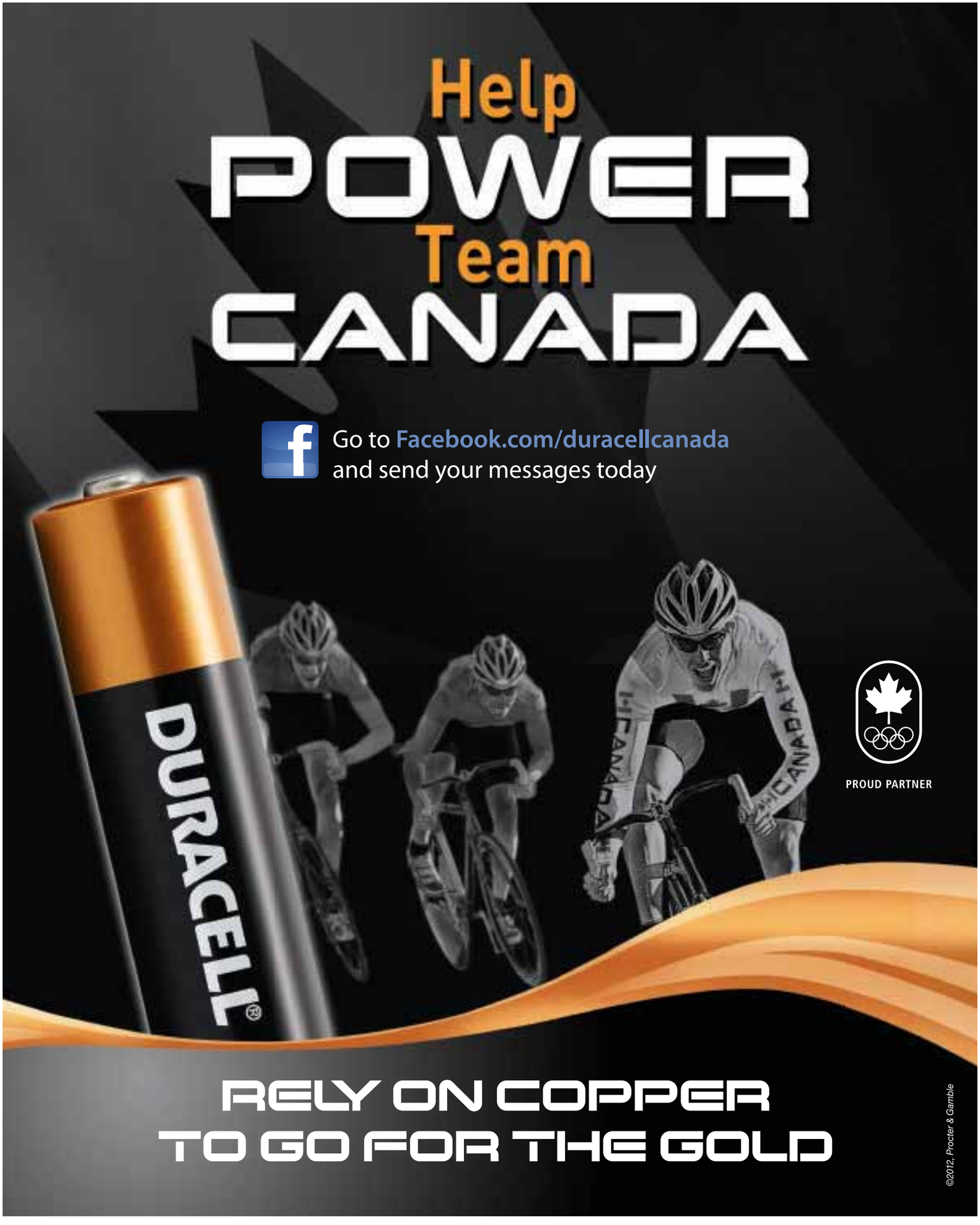
7					2		1	
			3	9			4	
	6		1					7
	9	1		8				
4			5		6			8
				7		3	5	
3					4		2	
	8			3	9			
	7		2					6

Yesterday's Sudoku

6	8	5	7	3	4	2	9	1
7	1	2	5	9	6	8	4	3
3	4	9	8	1	2	5	7	6
5	6	3	4	2	8	9	1	7
8	2	1	6	7	9	3	6	4
4	9	7	3	5	1	6	8	2
2	5	6	9	4	7	1	3	8
9	7	8	1	6	3	4	2	5
1	3	4	2	8	5	7	6	9

Sharability

easy — hard


Help
POWER
Team
CANADA
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and send your messages today
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CANADA
PROUD PARTNER
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TO GO FOR THE GOLD
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